

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on December 20, 2007 has been reviewed, along with the art cited. Claims 36, 37, 40, 42, 45 and 46 have been amended. Claim 41 has been canceled. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9, 11-40, 42-47, and 49-70 are pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 41, 42, 45, and 46 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Applicant has amended the claims to correct the antecedent problem. As amended they particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under section 112.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 36-38, 40, 43, and 44 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Struhsaker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,188,912) in view of Chidambaran et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,894,969).

To further the application to issue, the Applicant has amended the claims rejected under section 103. The Applicant however, retains the right to file a continuation application with claims having claim scopes similar to the claim scopes of the claims as originally filed. Regarding the current amendments, independent claim 36 has been amended to include the aspects of claim 41. Claim 41 was rejected under section 112 but, as now included in claim 36, has its antecedent problem corrected. Claim 41 has been canceled since it has been included in claim 36. Claim 45 has been amended to be an independent claim that includes all the aspects of original independent claim 36 and the original aspects of claim 45. Claim 45 has further been amended to correct the

antecedent problem. The claims as amended contain aspects not taught by either or the combination of the cited references. Hence, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under section 103.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9, 11-35, 47, 49-70 are allowable over the prior art.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

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Serial No.: 09/990,023

Attorney Docket No. 100.349US01

Filing Date: 11/21/2001

Title: PROTECTION SWITCHING MECHANISM

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that claims, 2, 4, 5, 7-9, 11-40, 42-47, and 49-70 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 502432.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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